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Message Text

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56
ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 SS-15 L-03

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---------- 122333
R 040228Z MAR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: E'WT, XT, US

SUBJECT: AMERICAN BUREAU OF SHIPPING REQUEST FOR
RECOGNITION BY THE CCNR

1. THE AMERICAN BUREAU OF SHIPPING (ABS), THE U.S.OWNNED
INTERNATIONAL SHIP CLASSIFICATION SOCIETY, HAS REQUESTED
THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN OVERCOMING DIFFICULTIES IT
HAS ENCOUNTERED IN OBTAINING OFFICIAL RECOGNITION FROM
THE CENTRAL COMMISSION FOR NAVIGATION ON THE RHINE (CCNR).
THE MAIN PROBLEM (SEE TEXT OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE BELOW FOR
BACKGROUND) APPEARS TO BE A "CHICKEN AND EGG" SITUATION

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WITHONE CCNR MEMBER GOVERNMENT INDICATING TO APS ITS

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CONSENT IS PREDICATED ON ACTION BY ANOTHER MEMBER
COUNTRY AND SO ON, BUT WITHOUT ANY ONE MEMBER WILLING TO
ACT IN THE FIRST INSTANCE. THERE IS ALSO REASON TO BELIEVE
THAT ABS' COMPETITION, BUREAU VERITAS OF FRANCE AND
GERMANISCHER LLOYD OF THE FRG, HAVE PLAYED ROLES IN
DELAYING ACTION ON THE ABS APPLICATION.

2. THE MOST RECENT WRITTEN INQUIRIES BY ABS REPRESENTA-
TIVES ON STATUS OF THE APPLICATIONS HAVE NOT MOVED
MATTERS FORWARD.
MAIN PLOY HAS BEEN TO CITE CHANGES IN REGULATIONS THAT ARE
BEING CONSIDERED. THIS, IN ITSELF, SHOULD HAVE NO BEARING
ON QUESTION OF ABS RECOGNITION. IF REGULATIONS WERE
CHANGED, ABS AS A RECOGNIZED SOCIETY WOULD BE EXPECTED TO
ABIDE BY AND APPLY THEM ACCORDINGLY IN THE PERFORMANCE
OF ITS SERVICES. --

3. ACTION REQUESTED: IN AN EFFORT TO HASTEN A DECISION,
ACTION ADDRESSOES ARE REQUESTED TO DELIVER FOLLOWING NOTE
TO HOST GOVERNMENT (BRUSSELS AND STRASBOURG NEED ONLY PRO-
VIDE INFORMATION COPY TO HOST GOVERNMENT ? CCNR SECRTAR-
IAT RESPECTIVELY):

(A) THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS
ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO APPLICATION OF THE AMERICAN
BUREAU OF SHIPPING SENT JUNE 23, 1972, TO THE CENTRAL
COMMISSION FOR NAVIGATION ON THE RHINE REQUESTING DESIG-
NATION AS A RECOGNIZED SHIP CLASSIFICATION SOCIETY TO
CARRY OUT SURVEYS AND ISSUE THE REQUISITE CERTIFICATES
TO OPERATE ON THE RHINE RIVER, INCLUDING THOSE PERTAINING
TO THE RULES FOR THE CARRIAGE OF DANGERIOUS CARGOES (ADNR),
TO VESSELS CLASSED WITH THE BUREAU.

(B) IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERN-
MENT THAT THE AMERICAN BUREAU OF SHIPPING'S REQUEST
REQUIRES THE CONSENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS
OF THE COMMISSION. THE GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM HAS
INFORMED THE BUFEAU ITS CONSENT WILL BE GIVEN ONCE THE
GOVERNMENTS OF THE COUNTRIES BORDERING THE RHINE RIVER
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GRANT APPROVAL. APPLICATION THEREFOR WAS MADE BY
THE BUREAU TO THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES OF
FRANCE ON JUNE 23, 1972, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
ON JANUARY 15, 1973, SWITZERLAND ON SEPTEMBER 14, 1973
AND THE NETHERLANDS ON JANUARY 14, 1974. MOREOVER, ALL
TECHNICAL INFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN REQUESTED OF THE
BUREAU SUBSEQUENTLY HAS BEEN PROVIDED.

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(C) ONE EFFECT OF THE CONTINUING DELAY IN THE GRANTING RECOGNITION TO THE AMERICAN BUREAU OF SHIPPING IS THAT U.S.-BUILT LASH BARGES CLASSIFIED WITH THE BUREAU MUST BE SURVEYED BY AN APPROVED SHIP CLASSIFICATION SOCIETY BEFORE THE NECESSARY CERTIFICATES TO TRANSIT THE RHINE CAN BE ISSUED. IN THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, THIS IS A NEEDLESS DUPLICATION OF EFFORT AND PLACES AN UNNECESSARY BURDEN ON AMERICAN SHIPOWNERS IN TERMS OF TIME AND EXPENSE.

(D) THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS UNAARE OF ANY LEGAL PROHIBITION PRECLUDING RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN BUREAU OF SHIPPING BY THE CENTRAL COMMISSION FOR NAVIGATION ON THE RHINE. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS NOTED THAT LLOYD'S REGISTER, WHOSE HEADQUARTERS ARE LOCATED IN A NATION WHICH IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION, IS SO RECOGNIZED, TOGETHER WITH BUREAU VERITAS OF FRANCE AND GERMANISCHER LLOYD OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

(E) THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS VERY INTERESTED IN THIS MATTER AND WOULD APPRECIATE ACTION BY APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES TO FACILITATE A DECISION ON THE

APPLICATION OF THE AMERICAN BUREAU OF SHIPPING PENDING BEFORE THE CENTRAL COMMISSION FOR NAVIGATION ON THE RHINE. SHOULD THERE BE ANY CIRCUMSTANCES OR REASONS WHICH PRECLUDE THE GRANTING OF CONSENT, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENTWOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED THEREOF.

(F) COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE.

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END TEXT.

4. FOLLOWING SUITABLE INTERVAL FROM NOTE DELIVERY DATE, POSTS REQUESTED TO RAISE MATTER INFORMALLY WITH RESPONSIBLE HOST GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (VAN DER WOUDEN OF DUTCH DIRECTORATE FOR SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION; F.F. SCHNAPAUFF OF FRG MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT; F. GAUTSCHI OF SWISS FEDERAL WATERWAYS OFFICE; AND J.P. CHAPON, DIRECTOR OF MARITIME PORTS AND NAVIGABLE WATERWAYS) TO DETERMINE CURRENT STATUS OF MATTER. KISSINGER

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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To: THE HAGUE MULTIPLE
Type: TE
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